

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0197

Connect Wyoming program-federal funding.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Newsome, Barlow, Duncan,
Eklund, Eyre, Flitner, Greear and Sommers
and Senator(s) Cooper, Kost and Landen

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the emergency expenses of government
2 related to broadband internet access; authorizing the use
3 of federal funds related to the Connect Wyoming program for
4 broadband development in Wyoming; defining terms related to
5 funding the program; providing for an appropriation;
6 providing rulemaking authority; and providing for an
7 effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.**

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13 (a) As used in this section:

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1 (i) "CARES Act" means the federal Coronavirus
2 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136,
3 including any amendments to that act;

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5 (ii) "Connect Wyoming" means the program created
6 by the council that used available CARES Act funds for
7 broadband development projects in Wyoming necessary to
8 respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency by bringing
9 faster and more reliable broadband internet service in
10 unserved and underserved areas;

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12 (iii) "Council" means the Wyoming business
13 council;

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15 (iv) "Covered period" means the period beginning
16 on the effective date of this act and ending December 31,
17 2021 except that if the period for which allowable costs
18 may be incurred under section 601 of the federal Social
19 Security Act, as created by section 5001 of the CARES Act
20 and as amended by section 1001 of Division M of the
21 Consolidated Appropriations Act, also known as the
22 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations
23 Act, is further amended or superseded, or if subsequent

1 federal legislation is enacted that provides the state of
2 Wyoming additional funds in response to the COVID-19 public
3 health emergency, "covered period" shall mean the period
4 beginning on the effective date of this act and ending on
5 the last date of the period specified by federal law for
6 which allowable costs may be incurred.

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8 (b) There is appropriated to the council an amount
9 determined by the legislature from any unexpended,
10 unobligated funds appropriated in 2020 Wyoming Special
11 Session Laws, Chapter 1, Section 2(b) and as authorized and
12 made available for expenditure in Section 2(c)(ii). If
13 CARES Act funds are not available for any portion of this
14 appropriation, the joint appropriations committee or any
15 other committee tasked with developing legislation shall
16 consider appropriating additional COVID-19 relief funds
17 from any subsequent federal COVID-19 relief package. Any
18 funds appropriated under this subsection shall be used only
19 for broadband internet development projects through the
20 Connect Wyoming program and consistent with the terms of
21 the federal gift, grant or appropriation from which the
22 funds originate. This appropriation shall not be
23 transferred or expended for any other purpose. Any

1 unobligated, unexpended funds remaining from this
2 appropriation on the last day of the covered period shall
3 revert as provided by law.

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5 **Section 2.** The Wyoming business council shall
6 promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions
7 of this act.

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9 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
10 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
11 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
12 Constitution.

13

14

(END)